

DRAFT-WORK IN PROGRESS

HOOD CANAL INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

Approach

HCCC has defined and categorized the Hood Canal “public” and Hood Canal community in four levels or groups to refine communication strategies:

- local and state elected officials responsible for land use management in Hood Canal,
- agencies, organizations, and planning processes that play a major role in watershed protection and restoration,
- community service groups and clubs that represent participants in the social and economic well being of our communities
- individual citizens, general public--landowners, residents, and users

The HCCC will routinely communicate with the first two groups--HCCC Board of Directors, ex-officios and project partners. Methods and forums for these communications take the form of regular HCCC Board meetings, HCCC steering committee meetings, HCCC Technical Advisory Committee and associated subgroups, ad hoc meetings with State and Federal agencies, and working groups that include partners (see Technical Involvement Strategy dated 16 June 2010 for more details).

Additionally, HCCC will coordinate and collaborate with and support organizations that have community connections and volunteer capacity to implement the plan. HCCC, working with partners, will define a comprehensive approach for this part of the public involvement strategy. The approach will include all of the diverse geographic areas and communities in the Hood Canal area is intended to be an on-going effort or “campaign.” Public input will be brought into each of the following three phases in a timely manner. A major intent of the strategy is to develop a mechanism that will allow funding and supportive resources for the Hood Canal education and outreach community to build capacity. HCCC will work with the Puget Sound Partnership, Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN), and the ECO-Net¹ partners to develop the capacity necessary to address pertinent education and outreach needs.

In consultations with the HCCC Board of Directors and Hood Canal education and communication partners the strategy will: 1) define the education and outreach partners, 2) the constituency of support for the integration approach, 3) what the HCCC Board wants from a public involvement process for the integration approach and plan implementation, and 4) what the public should do with the integration approach and ultimate integrated watershed plan.

¹ ECONET is the Education, Communication and Outreach Network and part of the Puget Sound Partnership’s communications and outreach program.

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Initial Phase

In the initial phase, the HCCC will introduce and ask for input from the Hood Canal community on the basic concept and approach of the HCCC integrated watershed plan, including a vision, developing initial desired future conditions, and set of initial targets designed to address the desired future conditions. The Hood Canal community will be asked, what is important now? What will be important in the future? What has been lost? What would you like to see gained?

Intermediate Phase

The Initial Phase information (vision, desired future conditions, initial set of targets) will be compiled. During the intermediate phase, HCCC and partners will seek input on the integrated plan components. They will provide to the public an analysis of the compiled input and get additional feedback.

Final Phase

This phase of the public involvement plan will involve implementation of *A Vision for Hood Canal: Hood Canal Integrated Watershed Management Plan*. It will include discussing recommended actions and seeking involvement with the implementation of specific actions. The final phase will be outlined by the final integrated plan, and could include information exchange, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Proposed Timeline

Initial Phase: through September 2010

- Introduction of integrated plan concept and approach.
- Relevant feedback will be gathered and incorporated into the integration development process.
- Development of vision, desired future conditions, and targets.

Intermediate Phase: September 2010 through December 2010

- Public review of integrated plan--viability analyses, threats assessments.
- continued incorporation of public input into Integrated Plan

Final Phase: 2011 through 2013

- Implementation of Integrated plan